

THE RIO NEWS.

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VOL. VI.

RIO DE JANEIRO, SEPTEMBER 15TH, 1879

NUMBER 23

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THE LATE BRAZILIAN CRISIS.

According to the charter of the Polytechnic school in Rio the government has the appointment of its director, but in case of the director's absence the law provides that the oldest professor shall act as such. The permanent director being in Europe, Dr. Galvão was *ex-officio* presiding over the faculty when the minister of public education ordered him to enforce at once some of the reforms promulgated last April, which refer not only to the Polytechnic school, but also to all "superior education" in Brazil. Among these reforms were some with which Dr. Galvão and other professors were far from sympathizing—as, for instance, the abolition of the oath of fidelity to the Roman Catholic religion, which has heretofore been exacted from those about to obtain diplomas. The acting director therefore summoned the faculty together to discuss the enforcement of the reforms. The faculty by a large majority decided to obey the order of the government, but the minister relieved Dr. Galvão from duty as director and appointed to the place a professor from another institution. The faculty thereupon refused to acknowledge the appointment, on the ground that it was illegal, and that by the constitution of the empire it was a crime to obey illegal orders. The students, much as they sympathized with the liberal reforms of the minister, joined their professors, and in a body went to the Senate chamber and cheered the two senators who attacked the minister two days after the dismissal of Dr. Galvão. The senators—two very ordinary politicians—addressed the students from the *portico* of the Senate, and the whole city of Rio was thrown into much agitation by these events.

Now, the minister of public education had been for some time making himself very obnoxious to the cabinet, not only for his too radical reforms in matters regarding his own department, but also for his too defiant position towards the Senate, the conservative majority of which the government, backed up by a liberal Chamber of Deputies, needs to handle delicately in order to carry on the great electoral reform now under discussion. Besides these reasons, Councilor Leoncio is but a second-rate party-man, and the new secretary of the treasury, the most influential of the liberal politicians, found great fault with him and was only too glad to throw him overboard. The premier asked him to resign and upon his refusal presented to the Emperor the decree of his dismissal, which was signed, according to constitutional usages in Brazil. Councilor Leoncio had very properly objected that his colleagues were aware of his intentions and acts regarding the Polytechnic school, and that they, as well as the Emperor, had approved of them. The premier, however, maintained that he and the other ministers assumed that the dismissal of Dr. Galvão was not illegal.

When these facts were announced in the Chamber of Deputies there had been a great change in public sentiment regarding the whole matter. It would seem that the first act of the government should have been the reappointment of Dr. Galvão, or else the dismissal of the director of the school, now in Europe, and the appointment of a new one. But the government did neither thing. It confiscated the school to an outsider, just as the ex-minister had done. The faculty again refused to acknowledge the appointment, and the agitation by the students continued to be very intense, the government being obliged to suspend the whole school for thirty days. It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that the session of the Chamber in which the ministry was reconstituted, gave explanations of the case, was one of the most violent in the history of parliamentary government in Brazil. The people in the galleries hissed the ministers, and the confusion was such that the speaker was compelled to interrupt the session. The excitement was intensified when it was discovered that the ministers did not return to the Chamber upon its reassembling. It is worthy of remark that the disorder

was caused altogether by the people in the galleries, and principally by the students and their friends. The Brazilian House of Deputies, having only one hundred and twenty deputies, is not very difficult of management by the presiding officer, inasmuch as it is composed in a great majority of members favorable to the government, in whose hands, after all, is the police of the House itself. But the people who habitually frequent the galleries, are very inflammable. They are the "practical workers" out of office, men only too anxious to obtain from some of the hot-headed deputies of the opposition the signal to cause a tumult. The material that furnishes these parliamentary listeners is very abundant in Rio, and the government is always very cautious in its selection of the means to suppress any act of hostility from them; for the fact is that, whatever may have been said of the meekness of the Brazilians, they are nearly as excitable as the average Spanish-American, and the Emperor, who has ever been proud that his country, because it is an empire, is not subject to the chronic revolutionary disease of its neighbors, is always fearful of riots, mobs, and whatever may be construed abroad as revolution. Moreover, the Emperor knows very well that it was an orderly mob of Rio that compelled his father, the founder of the monarchy, to abdicate in April, 1831. Dom Pedro, therefore, is rather deferential to the Rio mob.

It is unnecessary to show at length how precarious is the condition of affairs in a country controlled by the rule of the elite—a country whose senators address a parcel of revolutionary students while the session is going on in the same building. The recent travels of Dom Pedro, and the respectable show of Brazil in the Philadelphia exhibition, have produced a wrong impression of the country not only here but in Europe. The truth about the condition of the empire is anything but agreeable. Its sole industry is taxed enormously, both by the system of labor and by the mismanagement of the finances. Coffee pays about thirteen per cent. of export duty; and the non-existence of a territorial tax, combined with the duty on the production and the institution of slavery, acts as a premium to encourage idleness. The currency of the country is depreciated about thirty per cent., and a deficit of twenty-two millions of dollars is announced for the current fiscal year. Public education is as yet very backward. For the ten millions of inhabitants there are hardly 5,000 schools. Parliamentary government is almost a mockery. The ministers designate beforehand who shall be elected as deputy, and the ministers are made by the Emperor and the politicians in Rio. Reform after reform is decreed, but the mass of the people never understand the changes, which of course are never put to a practical test. The statesmen are impracticable when patriotic, but they are seldom patriotic, being more engaged in procuring places for themselves, their brothers, uncles, and nephews, than with the public good. If to all that we add the very low condition, both moral and mental of the Catholic clergy, mostly made up of ignorant and debased Portuguese and Italian priests, we shall have given a true sketch of the present state of Brazil.

The Brazilian constitution, which dates from 1825, has not been amended since 1834, when the attempt was made to give to the provinces the little self-government they now enjoy. But the Emperor is just now deeply anxious to see the fundamental law so altered as to limit the right of suffrage to those only who have a net annual income of two hundred dollars. Dom Pedro has probably experienced great difficulty in playing the rôle of a constitutional monarch in a country whose uneducated voters are so pliable in the hands of the ministers and politicians. He has very likely interfered in political contests more than it would be safe to let his inexperienced daughter do after him. She is said not to

be very popular in her own country, and is married to a French prince, the Count d'Eu, who is certainly distasteful to the Brazilians. Now, nothing could show better the confusion of parties in the empire than the fact that the constitutional reform, whose object is to disfranchise thousands of Brazilians, is being carried on by a liberal ministry. The present government has refused even to allow an amendment making Protestants eligible as deputies to the legislature, and yet for nearly fifty years the liberals have been combating for the separation of church and state, and the complete political equality of all sects. They are sacrificing all their faith to an inordinate desire for power. They are doing nothing to lift their country from the torpid condition in which it unfortunately lies. —*The Nation*, New York, July 24.

SOME STATISTICS ABOUT SLAVES.

The following tables show the number of slaves and free born children in the provinces of Pernambuco, Espírito Santo and Rio de Janeiro on the 31st of December 1878. From the figures here given some idea may be formed of the workings of the emancipation law of September 28, 1871. This law went into effect on the 30th of September, 1872, after which all children born of slaves were to be registered. The results of this law are as follows, after having been in operation six years and three months:

And statistics of the slave population of Pernambuco, Espírito Santo and Rio de Janeiro on the 31st of December, 1878.

	Pernambuco	Esprito Santo	Rio de Janeiro
Registered up to Sept. 30, 1873	100,210	27,297	304,140
Relieved to slavery by law	3	1	88
Deaths	7,370	2,214	34,339
Moved into other municipalities	14,404	1,544	27,879
Entered from other municipalities	16,683	3,729	43,875
Mannumitted by owners	2,220	131	5,393
Compulsory manumission	563	281	492
Free by emancipation fund	341	77	674
Free by purchase of law	2	2	2
Free not classified	561		

Number of free children born of slave women in the provinces of Pernambuco, Espírito Santo and Rio de Janeiro, in virtue of the law of Sept. 28, 1871, as shown by returns made December 31, 1878.

	Pernambuco	Esprito Santo	Rio de Janeiro
Registered up to Dec. 31, 1878	20,870	5,583	70,090
Deaths	3,017	1,339	21,508
Moved to other municipalities	1,026	97	1,712
Entered from other municipalities	980	162	1,755
Freeborn, without previous manumission	41	16	207

It will be seen from these figures that the number of slaves registered in these three provinces under the law of 1871 was 426,647, and that the number of slaves held at the end of December 1878, was 392,544, showing a diminution of 34,103 in the six years since the law went into effect. So far the results of the emancipation law present a highly favorable appearance. Upon further examination of the statistics we find that during this time 43,919 slaves have died, a number greater than the actual decrease in the slave population as shown above. The number of manumissions, through all causes was 70,735 which added to the number of deaths makes an actual decrease of 54,654. The difference between this actual and apparent decrease shows the increase in the number of slaves through purchase, sentence of law, and otherwise.

The number of free children, *ingenuos*, registered during the six years in question was 97,443, of which 27,864, or more than twenty-eight per cent., died during that interval. There remains then about seventy thousand *ingenuos* in these three provinces, nominally subject to all the degrading influences of slavery.

Under the law the master is entitled to a certain term of service in a certain sum of money in case of the escape of his slave. In this law the master receives both the service and the money.

THE NUMBER of emigrants arriving at the port of New York during the six months ended June 30 was 35,284; same period last year, 37,928; increase, 1739.

PUBLISHED TRIMONTHLY

RIO DE JANEIRO, SEPTEMBER 15TH, 1870

AFTER A TRIAL of more than three-quarters of a century under the most favorable of auspices, it has been clearly demonstrated in the United States that one of the greatest dangers to a representative form of government lies in unrestricted special legislation. In both the national and state governments this evil has been carried to an extreme which has often brought serious difficulties upon the people. It was one of the primary causes of the civil war, it is the cause of much of the municipal misgovernment which exists in various parts of the country; it made the Tweed ring possible; it has robbed the national treasury of vast sums of money; and it is unquestionably one of the inciting causes which is occasioning conflicts between capital and labor. With this experience before them, the members of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies will do well to make some radical modifications in its programmes. The present bill providing for the study of the sugar cane disease in Pernambuco is a good example for illustration—the more so because it bears so close a resemblance to the "internal improvements" and similar bills of the United States Congress. The Pernambuco delegates were perfectly right in their attempt to have the disease studied by a competent commission, but they made a

by whom? An unsigned article appeared in the *Gazeta de Notícias* in which certain charges are made. The article did not contain the contract of 1845, which we published in *extenso*, and its charges were sufficiently vague and sensational to attract no serious attention. It was simply a rhetorical tilt against the company. The reply was something similar to the one under consideration. To this and to the assertion that we did not possess a perfect knowledge of the facts, we would say that the accusations made by Deputy Joaquim Nabuco and The Rio News are based upon the original documents themselves. There is no personal feeling involved in the matter; no question of gain. The motive—the liberation of an illegally-enslaved people—is one which appeals to one of the highest and purest sentiments of every English heart. If this charge has been made without a perfect knowledge of all the facts, then the enormity of the crime for which James Newell Gordon and the so-called directors of the extinct *Cata Branca* company are responsible, is greater than we knew; the facts which have been already given, fully sustain all charges thus far. The company adds further that the accusations are unfounded because it

LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

—Owing to the occurrence of holidays and other interruptions to regular work, business has been accomplished by the Senate in the interval since our last issue than usual. The written opinion presented to the Senate on the 2nd inst., by Senator Silveira da Motta, in which he took exception to the Chamber bill and Senate substitute appropriating money for the municipal government of this city, created an animated discussion on the 4th in which the President of the Council and others took part. According to Silveira da Motta, and his charges are accompanied by documentary proofs, the municipal council of this city is guilty of gross mismanagement, possibly of criminal practices. The discussion ended in a request for information, and in steps which will probably lead to an investigation. The greater part of the time, not devoted to bureau administration has been spent in discussing the appropriations for the departments of war and agriculture. The latter bill has been quite as fruitful of political discussion as the estimates for the department of empire. At the present time the various questions growing

—The recent report of Dr. Felix da Costa, *delegado* of police, upon prostitution in this city, in which the names and practices of certain men engaged in this vile traffic were given, was made the subject of an inquiry in the Chamber on the 5th. Deputy Affonso Penna called attention to the report and consoled the house that all these men were foreigners. His remedy for the evil was the banishment of all these men. His inquiry was directed to the department of justice and asks what assistance the department needs from the legislature to suppress the abominable traffic.

ON SMITH'S CREEK, Elko county, Nevada, there is a more remarkable stratum of stearite resting prominently in a steep bluff of volcanic material which marks the eastern side of Smith's Creek valley. The stratum of stearite is from three to ten feet in thickness. It is easily worked and is a veritable treasure house. In fact the farmers, cattle men, and sheep herders in that region all use the natural stearite for greasing their animals. Economically considered, this peculiarly dry, hydrated stearite is a valuable element, containing phosphorus, potassium, sodium, magnesium, potash, and lime. When the stearite is first dug from the stratum it looks precisely like immense masses of mottled, corklike soap. The mounding element being a small percentage of iron oxide. The Virginia (Nev.) *Carmelite* says that a firm in Elko have undertaken to introduce this natural soap into the market. It is similar in appearance to the Castile soap sold in large bars, but it is not so hard, and it is not so brittle. It is soft and pliable and some scented essences can be incorporated with it as powerful as those of any manmade soap.—*Scientific American*.

—Mention was made in our last issue of the arrest of a gang of counterfeiters in New York some of whom were about to sail for Brazil with a quantity of counterfeit twenty-milreis notes of the old issue. The *New York World*, just received, contains the following particulars. About three months ago Mr. A. C. Goodall, president of the American Bank Note Co., received intelligence that an issue of fraudulent Brazilian notes was about to be made. He took no other information than this and without the assistance of detectives Mr. Goodall at once began a search for the counterfeiters. The gang was finally discovered in New York City. It consisted of two Cuban Spaniards, one of whom was and two Irishmen. One of the Spaniards, Francisco Antonio Rodriguez Sanabria, claims to own a plantation at Pernambuco; the other, Segundo Lopez, is a cigar dealer in Brooklyn and was the interpreter of the party. The Brazilian, Joao Benicio Bebelaca, claims to be a merchant, and had a large quantity of the spurious notes in his possession. The two Irishmen, P. P. J. Donovan and John Moriarty, were the working men of the party, the former, a stationer, acting as business agent and the latter, a geographer, doing the printing. Bebelaca and Moriarty were arrested on the City of Rio Janeiro for Brazil and were arrested on the City of Rio on the morning of August 5th, just before starting on the steamer. The counterfeiters were found in his possession. Sanabria was with him at the time and was also arrested. Donovan and Lopez were arrested on the wharf where they were awaiting Bebelaca's arrival. Moriarty was arrested at the Fulton ferry gate the next morning. All the stones and material were captured. The case was brought before the police court on the 6th but was postponed until the 10th, the statute in regard to the case. The American law is very minute and strict in its application to the counterfeiters. The notes, and in relation to foreign notes and securities, are not to the uttering or attempt to utter the counterfeiters. As Bebelaca and his confederates had not attempted to issue these notes in the United States, it becomes difficult to make out a case against them. Their plates and printed notes, however, will be destroyed.

THE EUROPEAN SILK CROP

THE SOUTH PASS of the Mississippi river now has a channel twenty-six feet deep and two hundred feet wide.

COMMERCIAL

de Barcello I	183	27	Mont Aliz	Alex Wagner
de Soledad	109	28	Mont Aliz	Nazario Trindade, Rocha
de Ricardo	140	28	Pays-André	de Romaguera & L.
de Cataluna	136	28	Pays-André	de Romaguera & L.
de Octava ...	174	Sept 11	Conceição	Alex. Wagner
DUTH				
de Vlyt ...	200	July 27	Liverpool	J. J. Fiske & Co
de Unie	234	Aug 29	San Nicolas	Alex. Wagner.

PROVINCIAL NOTES

I insist upon these questions, because what are linked the momentous problem which at present so nearly interests Brazil—the problem of manual labor. Animals for purposes of agriculture, oxen, horses and mules are much cheaper here than in Europe, a sufficient reason for using them even as manual labor plentiful and cheap. But it is easily shown that such labor whether free or slave is extremely high in Brazil, and in comparison with the quality is five times as high as in North America or Europe. Even at very high prices, manual labor is scarce, and hands that are scarce to employ are lacking altogether when slave labor is being cheaply secured. This lack can be supplied in part by the use of animals and agricultural machinery.

The average milch flux in each of the four provinces, in the year 1878, was as follows:—Ulster, 108,864 acres; Connaught, 177,222 acres; Munster, 108,864 acres; and Leinster, 897 acres; total, 311,858 acres. These figures, which are taken from a return of the Registrar General, show a decrease in the average under flux, compared with 1877, of 11,627 acres, or 9.4 per cent. Its diminution in area was caused by a deficiency in the supply of seed. The average under flux in Ulster was 6,001 per acre, of the whole average under crop; whilst over the whole of Ireland the flux averaged 2.15 per acre of the average under flux. In 1877 the total production of flux in Ireland was 1,000,000 cwt. of 260 lbs. It was 21,763 tons, showing a decrease of 276 tons, or 1.5 per cent. Though the decrease in the average was 9.4 per cent., had the whole of the seed sown been of an average uniform quality, the gross production in 1878 would have exceeded that of 1877. The average yield per acre in Ireland in 1878 was 31.35 stone of 14 lbs. There has been during the year a further decrease in the number of South milks. These milks come into the 160,000 tons of milk and milk products in 1878, and the 180,000 tons of milk and milk products in 1879, and the 180,000 tons of milk and milk products in 1880. It will have a tendency to cause more milks to close; the probable effect will, therefore, be to diminish the production of the raw milk in 1880.—*N. Y. Com. Bulletin*, June 27, 1879.

—The *Gazeta de Porto Alegre* says with reference to the fall of snow in the province of Rio Grande do Sul: "Notices from Cima da Serra say that during the last days of the month snow drawing to a close were fell in those regions such a quantity of snow that it covered the earth to a depth of more than ten feet, sufficient to bury the cattle under snow so that their horns barely projected. It is said that the injury to the cattle and plantations is very great. The Cattle of St. and D. Imbel colonies the night of snow stopped the trees, leaving them without of branches. Such a fall of snow has never been known in the province before."

The following extracts from the statement of John H. Dearborn, formerly first mate of the bark *Elston* concerning the murder of Captain Barclay, will be of interest to many of our readers. The extracts are taken from the New York *Herald*, of May 16.

posed the haul. *A Division* in Pernambuco on the 21st of September 1811. We hoisted and proceeded on our way for a scene of coffee-picking. We arrived in Rio on the right of December 1st, and tomorrow, arriving night in New York. We did not depart until the 10th. On the 11th, we were engaged in a party, when they sailed from Rio for this port. We were heading at Rio, Powers was engaged in a party as second mate. Two sailors that belonged to the ship *Rhinland*, on which Powers had been second mate, were working on board, and when they found that Powers was engaged they left, refusing to serve under him. On the 18th, being ill, I was carried down to dinner, was at dinner with Powers, when a dispute arose between the man at the wheel and the captain. The latter asked him the vessel was heading, the former gave a wrong course. After dinner I was asked into the cabin, and while sitting my eye heard the captain and Powers again engaged in a dispute on clock. I went out for help and was asked to look. I lifted up as far as the mizen mast I thought to, seeing that the captain and Powers were clinched. I saw Powers strike him a prick at a steel-pike, with a wooden handle, of fifteen inches in length, sinking it into his three times. The captain held his revolver pointed at Powers, but he was so stunned by the blow that he did not cock it. During the struggle I called out to the captain to stop, and then the latter received the severest blow, just over the temple, the pricker remaining in the head. He fell from half past eight o'clock, until nine, when he

— The balance sheet of the Recife no S. Francisco railway for the month of July shows the following figures: receipts, 42,302\$20; expenses 36,495\$30; balance to be applied toward interest guarantee on capital, 5,806\$20. The traffic on the rail during the month comprised 13,345 passengers, 67.12 tons of baggage and express matter, 2,276.63 tons of freight, and 388 animals. The freights included 87 tons of sugar and 1 tons of cotton. The average receipts per kilometre were 339\$26 and the expenses 292\$5.72.

CARSON'S HOTEL.
160 RUA DO CATETE

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS
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OF THE
CITY OF SÃO PAULO

The directors of the *Companhia Cantareira e Engenheira* will receive proposals for the construction of the water-works and a complete drainage system of this city and for the furnishing of all the material necessary for said works, and mark the term thirty days from this date to the 30th of Sept prox for receiving the respective proposals of contractors.

The specifications, plans, profiles, maps, etc., which should be filed as basis for the proposals may be examined by contractors at the office of the Company, No. 37 Rua da Boa Vista.

1888 of the *Companhia Cantareira e Engenheira*. -
São Paulo, August 25, 1879.

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